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| REMARKS |
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Preliminary Comments

Upon reviewing the application in preparation for the Appeal Brief, it was discovered that the references from the European search report were inadvertently not disclosed. This RCE is being filed for consideration of the references cited in the search report. If the rejection from the examiner's final rejection is repeated, it is requested that the office action for the RCE also be made final to expedite prosecution.

Closing

Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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| CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING |
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I hereby certify that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment (2 pages total) is being deposited as express mail, label no. EV 383033719 US to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below:

Date: 13 February 2004

By: Agata Glinska
Agata Glinska